

# **The Empowering Federal Employment for Veterans Act of 2017**

## **(“Empowering Fed Vets Act”)**

### **Section 2**

- Requires 24 agencies to establish a Veterans Employment Program Office or employee with full-time responsibility to:
  - develop and implement the agency’s plan for promoting employment opportunities for veterans, veterans recruitment programs, and training programs for veterans with disabilities;
  - coordinate employment counseling and training programs to help match the skills and career aspirations of veterans to the needs of the agency, targeting high-demand federal occupations that are projected to have heavy recruitment needs; and
  - provide mandatory annual training to human resources employees and hiring managers concerning veterans’ employment, including training on veterans’ preferences and special authorities for the hiring of veterans.
- Requires the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to facilitate coordination among veterans employment officials, including by:
  - regularly convening veterans employment officials for working-level meetings to share information on best practices, prospective applicants, and strategies for matching veterans with appropriate employment;
  - develop mandatory annual training for human resources employees and hiring managers concerning veterans’ employment, including training on veterans’ preferences and special authorities for the hiring of veterans;
  - develop a skills-based, cross-governmental career development program for agencies to leverage in matching veterans’ career aspirations with high-growth occupations;
  - promote the federal government as an employer of choice for transitioning servicemembers and veterans’;
  - market the talent, experience, and dedication of transitioning servicemembers and veterans to federal agencies;
  - disseminate federal employment information to veterans and hiring officials; and
  - report to Congress within a year of enactment on progress in these areas.

### **Section 3**

- Requires an interagency Council on Veterans Employment co-chaired by the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs with the OPM Director as Vice Chair to:
  - advise and assist the President and OPM Director to maintain a coordinated government-wide effort to increase the number of veterans employed by the federal government in positions that match the skills and career aspirations of veterans by enhancing recruiting, hiring, retention, training and skills development; and job satisfaction;
  - serve as a national forum for promoting employment opportunities for veterans in the federal government;
  - establish performance measures to assess the effectiveness of these efforts; and
  - report annually to the President and Congress on the effectiveness of these efforts.
- Requires OPM to designate an Executive Director of the Council on Veterans Employment and to provide administrative support to the extent permitted by law and within existing appropriations.

### **Section 4**

- Directs the Department of Defense, in consultation with OPM, to expand the SkillBridge initiative to enable federal agencies to participate as employers and trainers, including the provision of training and internships to transitioning servicemembers, and to take such actions as may be necessary to ensure that federal agencies participate in the initiative.